

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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## **Washington State Patrol Participates in National Drug Bust**

The Washington State Patrol participated in "Operation Byrne Drugs" at the end of July. 26 states participated in this national sweep. Operation Byrne Drugs is a national effort to show how effective concentrated drug enforcement can be.

State police and highway patrol agencies, local police and sheriff's departments, and drug task forces throughout the nation collectively conducted undercover investigations, search warrants, consent searches, marijuana eradication efforts, drug interdiction and arrest warrants for a period of one day to a few weeks.

In addition to the more than 3,000 arrests, these 26 states were successful in busting 55 meth labs, seizing \$9 million in currency, nearly 300 guns, more than 16,000 pounds of marijuana, 61,000 marijuana plants, 2,700 pounds of cocaine, 72 vehicles, and a variety of other drugs.

WSP Captain Mark Couey states "I am proud of the efforts of our team; it really shows what working collaboratively can produce. We welcome future opportunities to participate in more national events like this one."

The program is funded through the Edward Byrne grant each year, which is named for a New York City police officer who was killed at a young age by organized drug traffickers who were trying to prevent a witness from being able to testify in a drug case.

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